

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 14, 2002

The Honorable
John D. Ashcroft
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
10th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

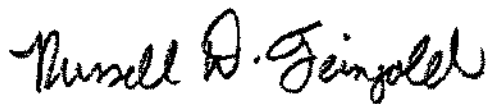
We write to urge you and the U.S. Department of Justice to comply with the order issued by a federal court on August 2, 2002, requiring the Justice Department to release the names of individuals detained since September 11. *See Center for National Security Studies, et al. v. U.S. Dept. of Justice*, Civ. Action No. 01-2500, slip op. (D.D.C. Aug. 2, 2002).

We have long believed that the Justice Department's refusal to identify the hundreds of individuals rounded up and detained since September 11 was without legitimate justification. We first wrote you on October 31, 2001 requesting information about the hundreds of individuals the Justice Department has arrested and detained in connection with the investigation into the terrorist attacks on September 11. We reiterated our request in a letter dated June 21, 2002. While the Justice Department has provided some information on the detentions to Congress, through the media, and during the course of the *Center for National Security Studies* lawsuit, most of the information we sought in our October 31st request has still not been made available to us.

Our view continues to be that with only a few narrow exceptions, secret arrests and detentions are inconsistent with a free, democratic society and the rule of law. We agree with the federal court's decision that the Justice Department has no acceptable legal basis for withholding information on the identity of the detainees and their lawyers. We urge you to end the misguided policy of near absolute secrecy about the detention of individuals since September 11. By ceasing efforts to appeal the federal court ruling and instead releasing the information about the detainees as ordered, the Justice Department can bring this unfortunate chapter to a close.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
U.S. SENATOR



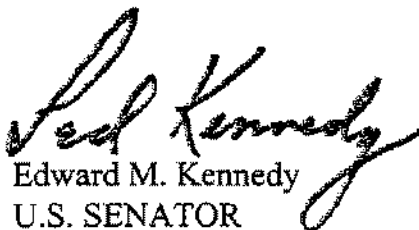
John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE



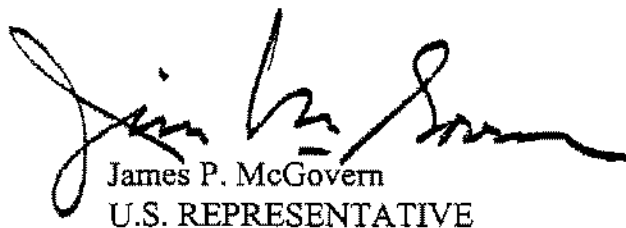
Patrick J. Leahy
U.S. SENATOR



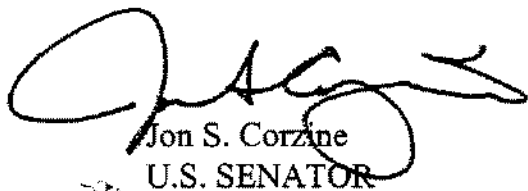
Robert C. Scott
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE



Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. SENATOR



James P. McGovern
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE



Jon S. Corzine
U.S. SENATOR